

# CAMPAIGN IN PALESTINE IS NOT A SIDE ISSUE OF GREAT WAR, DECLARES HERMAN BERNSTEIN

British Success There Essential to An Enduring Peace.

## AMERICANS WERE BEATEN

Germans Participated in Turkish Brutalities in Jewish Colonies.

By HERMAN BERNSTEIN  
Editor of The American Hebrew.  
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A recent cablegram from Alexandria, Egypt, stated that refugees from Palestine report that the Turks, in cooperation with the Germans, are committing fearful atrocities upon Jewish colonies in Palestine.

During October all the leading men of the Jewish colony at Jaffa were accused of espionage, and on false evidence, or on confession extorted by torture, were convicted by a German court martial and hanged with many members of their families.

To extort confessions, many men and women, including some American citizens, were stripped and beaten in public so severely as to cause death. But the end of this reign of terror is in sight.

The triumphal onward sweep in Palestine of the British, under General Allenby, has already resulted in the capture of Jaffa, the principal Mediterranean seaport of the Holy Land, and with it the Jaffa-Jerusalem railroad, which brings the allied forces almost to the very gates of Jerusalem. Another force is holding Beersheba, where Abraham rested, and at the proper moment will move forward to Hebron, gateway to the Holy City from the southeast. (Since this was written Hebron has been taken.—Ed.) Thus, the British army will be in a position to operate against Jerusalem, either for attack or siege, and Christmas may see the birthplace of the three dominating religions—Christianity, Judaism and Mohammedanism—wrested from the hands of the Turks and a beginning made toward ending these German-Turkish atrocities.

The brilliant operations of Allenby's army has attracted the attention of the whole civilized world, while watching them with sentimental regard, has been not a little mystified by the enormous expenditure of men and military equipment in a war theatre so far removed from the western front.

It is not generally realized that the Palestine operations are no mere side-venture of the part of Great Britain but that they have a tremendous bearing on the ultimate result of the war.

As a matter of fact, there can be no enduring peace unless Palestine and Mesopotamia shall be torn from Turkey and its master ally, Germany.

Anything short of this would mean that, even though Germany is completely defeated in Europe, her pretensions Bagdad-to-Berlin scheme would remain intact to menace the world, with its everlasting threat against the Suez Canal, Egypt and India.

None have realized this better than the Germans themselves, who are thoroughly alarmed over the success of the British arms.

They have always realized the great importance of Palestine in connection with their own plans for the military domination of the world, and German publicists have given a great deal of attention to the "Near East" question. The over-zealous Dr. Paul Rohrbach, writing for the education of the German mind and in preparation for the launching of the Mittel Europe project, pointed out that a direct attack upon England, across the North Sea, was utterly out of the question. A rather combination which would strike England at its most vulnerable point, was needed, and this combination, he revealed, existed in Germany's relations to Turkey. It was to create just these relations that Wilhelm visited Constantinople and Jerusalem, that he worshipped at the shrine of Mohammed, that he played the role of protector of Turkey against all Europe.

"England can be attacked and mortally wounded by land from Europe only in one place—Egypt. The loss of Egypt would mean for England not only the end of her dominion over the Suez Canal and of her connections with India and the far east, but would mean also the loss of her possessions in Central and East Africa. The conquest of Egypt by a Mohammedan power, like Turkey, would also imperil France's hold over her sixty million Mohammedan subjects in India, besides prejudicing her relations with Afghanistan and Persia."

Here we have the explanation of

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Germany's interest in Turkey, and the German-planned, Turkish-led campaign against the Suez Canal in 1915. This campaign, led over three routes across the desert of the Sinai Peninsula, was planned by Colonel Kress von Kressenstein and led by Djemal Pasha—the same Djemal who later became the tyrannical governor of Palestine. Victorious at Ismaili, 15 miles below

the canal, at Antara, 30 miles south of Port Said, the British failed to seize the opportunity then presented for the utter rout of the Turkish forces. But the early mistakes were quickly repaired when General Sir Archibald Murray assumed command of the British forces, and following Kitchener's tactics, began building a railway along the Mediterranean seacoast. In the spring of this year, General Murray advanced to Gaza, where the ending of the rainy season compelled him to halt until fall.

Meanwhile, General Allenby had been sent from the west front, and his successful operations have been conducted according to the strategy outlined by his predecessor.

The next few days ought to develop whether General Allenby plans to strike at Jerusalem along line of the railroad, or to continue his northern course until he has taken Haifa, 60 miles beyond Jaffa. Then his army will march on Jerusalem through the Plains of Esdraelon. This historic plain runs broadly between Mount Naphtali, in Galilee and Mount Ephraim in Samaria, and continuously from Mount Carmel to the Jordan, making it the most important and political military factor in the history of Palestine. It has been the highroad of all the invasions of Jerusalem.

Mr. Bernstein will tell more about the war in the Holy Land in The West Virginian tomorrow.

## Evening Chat

The latest official figures put the number of enlisted men in the armies of the United States at one million, three hundred and sixty thousand. This is the force that has grown in eight months out of an army that on April 1 numbered only 110,000 men.

Most of them are still in the training camps. Many of them are not yet disciplined troops, fully equipped and armed for battle.

But there they are, 1,360,000 of them, already one of the biggest factors Hindenburg is reckoning with for the campaign of 1918.

To lead them there are over 80,000 officers. When the graduates of the second training camp get their first

orders the number will be over 100,000—many officers as there were privates nine months ago.

The whole military establishment, with the marines and the auxiliary forces thrown in, numbers a million and a half. The expansion that has taken place is as if Grand Rapids had grown in eight months to be virtually as big as Philadelphia.

Since Xerxes led his million and a half of assorted Asiatics across the Hellespont, Europe has seen many a campaign conducted on the grand scale. American battles have been fought as stubbornly but with smaller forces engaged. There were 2,700,000 enlistments in the Federal army in the Civil war. But many of this number were re-enlistments. The highest total engaged at any one time was reached in the last year of the war. On March 31, 1865, the Union army comprised 980,000 men.

For the Spanish war an army of 275,000 was raised. Only 60,000 saw service.

The present American army is the largest armed force the Western Hemisphere has ever seen—unless the Mound Builders were more numerous and pugnacious than we have any reason to believe they were. If the whole army could be gathered together today and lined up in a solid infantry column, four abreast, it would reach across Ohio from Cincinnati to Toledo and on to the Michigan line.

A million and a half of men! It is as if the entire population of the state of South Carolina, or of the states of Nebraska and Wyoming put together—men, women and children—were suddenly to be converted into young men clad in olive drab and organized into companies and battalions.

When Great Britain entered the war it was with a much smaller army. The first expeditionary force numbered barely a hundred thousand. The Kaiser called it a contemptible little army. Yet without its work at Mons, Paris might have fallen. One hundred thousand men, and the encouragement

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they brought to the French, were enough to avert defeat in the first year of the war.

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